

Applicants : Jan Geliebter, et al.
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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 51-53 and 57-58 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application. Please amend Claims 55-56 and add new Claims 60-64 as set forth below.

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) A method of enhancing relaxation of a penile smooth muscle in a subject having heightened contractility of the penile smooth muscle, comprising the direct introduction and expression of a DNA sequence comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a sequence encoding a potassium channel protein that enhances relaxation of the penile smooth muscle, into a sufficient number of penile smooth muscle cells of the subject to enhance relaxation of the penile smooth muscle in the subject.

51-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

55. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 50, ~~51~~, wherein the ~~calcium-sensitive~~ potassium channel protein is maxi-K.

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56. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 50, ~~52~~, wherein the ~~metabolically-gated~~ potassium channel protein is K_{ATP} and the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

57-58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the DNA sequence is introduced by naked DNA transfer.

60. (New) A method of treating a subject, the method comprising the direct introduction and expression of a DNA sequence comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a sequence encoding a potassium channel protein into penile smooth muscle cells of the subject.

61. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

62. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the potassium channel protein is maxi-K.

63. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the potassium channel protein is K_{ATP} .

64. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the DNA sequence is introduced by naked DNA transfer.